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# ENLT 395.01: Fathers and Daughters in Western Literary Traditions

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Fall 2005

## Fathers and Daughters in Western Literary Traditions

LS 395 ENLT 395 WGS 395

**Dr. Ruth Vanita**

TR 9.40-11 a.m., GBB225

Office: LA 146A Tel. 243-4894 Email: [ruth.vanita@umontana.edu](mailto:ruth.vanita@umontana.edu)  
Office Hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30, Thursday 2-3, and by appointment.

### Texts (prescribed editions required)

1. Euripides, trans. Morwood, Bacchae and other Plays (OUP, 2000)
2. Sophocles, trans. Eamon Grennan, Oedipus at Colonus (OUP, 2004)
3. J. R. R. Tolkien trans., Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Sir Orfeo (Del Rey, 1979)
4. William Shakespeare, King Lear (Dover Thrift)
5. Percy Shelley, The Cenci (Valancourt, 2008)
6. George Eliot, Silas Marner (Enriched Classics, 2005)
7. Rudolf Besier, The Barretts of Wimpole Street (Dramatists Play Service, 1953)
8. Alison Bechdel, Fun Home (Mariner Books, 2007)
9. Photocopied materials; the story of Jephthah; poems by Wordsworth and Yeats

### Goals

To examine and discuss how relationships between fathers and daughters have been represented in the Western literary traditions. Themes include: love, hate, sacrifice, resemblance and difference, memory, domination, choice, son-preference, adoption, illegitimacy, rape, murder, sexuality, judgment, and forgiveness.

### Requirements

This course entails considerable amounts of reading (eight substantial texts), and also requires upper-level writing skills. If you feel unable to do the reading, please do not take this class. If you have not yet taken a lower-division writing class, you are probably not prepared for this class.

Students are required to

(a) attend classes regularly. Please inform me in advance if you are unable to attend a class. More than two absences not explained to my satisfaction will result in a zero for attendance and participation; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Explanations must be communicated to me in person and accepted by me. Acceptable explanations include illness (backed up by a medical certificate) and emergencies such as major sickness in the family or serious weather conditions, backed up by documentation.

- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in class discussions.
- (c) write a one-page reading paper for every text. Topics will be given in advance.
- (d) make a five to ten-minute class presentation on one text, raising questions for discussion. Presentations must not be summaries of the texts. A sign-up sheet will be circulated. The presentation may become the basis for the final paper.
- (e) take a mid-term examination.
- (f) write a final paper (6-8 pages double-spaced typed).
- (g) hand in a titled abstract for the paper, in advance, discuss the abstract with me during office hours, and revise it if necessary. The abstract must state your thesis and summarize your argument.
- (h) Topics for papers must be decided in individual consultation with me.

### Grades

The mid-term exam will be worth 25%, the final paper 20%, class attendance and participation 20%, reading papers on the texts 25%, and the presentation 10%. The final paper must be on time; late papers will not be accepted. I will be leaving the country soon after, for an international conference.

Plagiarism of any kind in any assignment will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).

If you take this course to fulfill General Education requirements or for the English or Liberal Studies majors or the Women's Studies minor, you must earn a C minus to pass; D is a failing grade.

Liberal Studies and English majors and Women's Studies minors cannot take this class Pass/Not Pass. However, if you are not one of these, and take this class Pass/Not Pass, you need to earn at least a C minus to pass since D is not a passing grade for Pass/Not Pass students.

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please notify me in the first week of class.

### Other information

On Tuesdays I have an ASCRC meeting at 2 p.m., so I cannot entertain questions after class, but on Thursdays I have office hours at 2 p.m., which is a good time to talk. Feel free to ask factual questions at appropriate times during class, or during my office hours, or just before class.

A suggestion: You have several days off this semester. It would be wise to use this time to read ahead, as this class requires quite a lot of careful reading.

## Reading Schedule

**This schedule is tentative. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with any changes.**

Page numbers refer to the editions listed in this syllabus (see page 1) and sold in the UC bookstore. Please use these editions, so that we are all on the same page.

- August 26 Introduction, and explanation of syllabus; short in-class written assignment
- August 28 Read Iphigenia at Aulis, up to the Third Choral Ode
- September 2 Read Iphigenia at Aulis, Third Choral Ode to the end.
- September 4 Read the story of Jephthah from the Bible (photocopy) and Oedipus at Colonus, up to First Choral Ode
- September 9 No class: I am on medical leave
- September 11 Read Oedipus at Colonus, from First Choral Ode to Second Choral Ode
- September 16 Read Oedipus at Colonus, from Second Choral Ode to the end
- September 18 No class: I am on medical leave
- September 23 Read Pearl
- September 25 Read King Lear, Act I
- September 30 Read King Lear, Act II
- October 2 Read King Lear, Act III
- October 7 Read King Lear, Acts IV and V
- October 9 Read The Cenci, Acts I and II
- October 14 Read The Cenci, Acts III and IV
- October 16 Read The Cenci, Act V
- October 21 **Mid-term exam**
- October 23 Read Wordsworth sonnet and Silas Marner, chapters 1 to 7

- October 28 Read Silas Marner, chapters 8 to 12
- October 30 Read Silas Marner, chapters 12 to 16
- November 4 Holiday: Election Day
- November 6 Read Silas Marner, chapters 17 to end
- November 11 Holiday: Veterans' Day
- November 13 Read The Barretts of Wimpole Street, Acts I and II
- November 18 Read The Barretts of Wimpole Street, Act III. **Titled abstract due, in class**
- November 20 Read Yeats, "A Prayer for my Daughter" and HD, "The Master." **Discuss abstract with me, in office hours**
- November 25 Read Fun Home, chapters 1 and 2. **Rewritten abstract due, if needed**
- November 27 Thanksgiving
- December 2 Read Fun Home, chapters 3, 4, 5.
- December 4 Read Fun Home, chapters 6, 7. **Paper due, in class**